

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF UNEF

REF: A) STATE 168232 B) CAIRO 7012

SUMMARY: AT MEETING WITH FAHMY IN ALEXANDRIA JULY 17 I CONVEYED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL A ON POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE FOLLOWED IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON UNEF MANDATE EXTENSIONS. FAHMY INITIALLY INDICATED SCENARIO WAS IMMATERIAL PROVIDED US CONTINUED TO ADHERE TO COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO SADAT. WHEN PRESSED, HE PROVIDED OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE SCENARIO WHICH COULD RESULT IN GOE AGREEING TO THREE MONTH EXTENSION. HE STATED JULY 24 EXPIRATION OF MANDATE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS DEADLINE SINCE, AT HIS JULY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, HE NEVER SAID HE WOULD KICK UNEF OUT. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH SADAT AT NEARBY MAMMOURA PALACE, FAHMY SAID SCENARIO WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW SINCE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT MAKE UP HIS MIND UNTIL HE RECEIVED FULLY DETAILED REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD REACH HIS OWN MAJOR DECISION WHETHER TO OPT FOR INTERIM SETTLEMENT OR GENEVA CONFERENCE. SADAT ASKED WHY AMERICAN MAP HAD NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO BOTH SIDES AND THOUGHT IT PROPER TIME TO DO SO. FAHMY SAID

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SADAT WISHED TO INFORM SECRETARY THAT "THERE SHOULD BE

NO NERVOUSNESS ABOUT THE SITUATION." END SUMMARY

1. I MET WITH FAHMY JULY 17 AT HIS BEACH CABIN IN ALEXANDRIA AND CONVEYED TO HIM POINTS MADE IN REFTEL A ON EXTENSION ON UNEF.

2. HIS INITIAL COMMENT WAS THAT HE THOUGHT HE HAD MADE CLEAR IN JULY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT GOE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INTERIM AGREEMENT. FAHMY REPEATED HIS ANNOYANCE (REFTEL B) AT YOUR MILWAUKEE PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE SUBSEQUENTLY NOTED THEY DID NO HARM WITH HIS ARAB COLLEAGUES.

3. TURNING TO THE SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION IN PARA 1B REFTEL A, FAHMY'S FIRST REACTION WAS THAT IT SOUNDED LIKE AN ISRAELI POSITION. HE SAID THAT SCENARIO IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) WAS IMMATERIAL. WHAT IS BASIC TO GOE IS WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD AND YOURSELF ARE STILL COMMITTED TO LANGUAGE IN PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SADAT. IF HE COULD GET CONFIRMATION FROM YOU THAT COMMITMENT RE PASSES AND OIL FIELDS STILL HOLDS, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. ANYWAY, HE SAID, WE STILL HAVE SEVEN DAYS BEFORE MANDATE EXPIRES AND, IN ANY EVENT, STATUS QUO RE UNEF WILL REMAIN UNTIL SC DECIDES WHAT TO DO. HE SAW IT AS BETTER FOR US AND EGYPT VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL TO KEEP THE SITUATION A BIT TENSE AS LONG AS WE AGREE ON WHAT TO DO. FAHMY AFFIRMED THAT HE NEVER SAID HE WOULD KICK THE UNEF OUT. HE STRESSED HIS PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH AND CONFIDENCE IN YOU, DECLARING THAT HE WILL GIVE PLENTY OF ADVANCE NOTICE BEFORE GOE WOULD TAKE ANY DECISIVE STEP.

4. I TOLD FAHMY WE APPRECIATED THIS, BUT THERE WERE CERTAIN MATTERS THAT NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH. SC WOULD HAVE TO TAKE SOME ACTION ON EXPIRATION OF MANDATE. I PRESSED HIM FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT SORT OF APPROACH HE MIGHT HAVE IN MIND. FAHMY THEN OUTLINED FOLLOWING SCENARIO (WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY CHARACTERIZED AS A PERSONAL VIEW): A) SC SHOULD HOLD DEBATE ON SECRET

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MANDATE QUESTION IN WHICH SOME MEMBERS WOULD SAY THAT SITUATION MUST NOT BE FROZEN AND ITS STAGNATION SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. B) THEN SC SHOULD ASK ITS PRESIDENT -- NOT WALDHEIM -- TO ADDRESS AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT SADAT REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION OF EGYPTIAN DECISION NOT TO RENEW MANDATE, WITHOUT SPECIFYING DURATION OF EXTENSION SOUGHT. (FAHMY ADDED THAT GOE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF UNSYG

ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH APPEAL, BUT THAT PRINCIPAL APPROACH SHOULD BE THROUGH SC PRESIDENT.)
C) PROVIDING CIRCUMSTANCES WERE RIGHT, GOE WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY, INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO RENEW MANDATE FOR THREE, NOT RPT NOT SIX MONTHS. D) RESOLUTION PASSED BY SC EXTENDING MANDATE SHOULD 1) REFER TO RES 338, 2) INDICATE THAT PURPOSE OF UNEF WAS TO PROMOTE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE, 3) RECALL THAT FIRST DISENGAGEMENT HAD BEEN REGARDED AS FIRST STEP TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, ETC. MOREOVER, SC SHOULD EXPRESS VIEW THAT SITUATION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAGNATE, OTHERWISE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE DANGEROUS-IN OTHER WORDS, REPEAT US POSITION AS DESCRIBED BY PRESIDENT FORD AND YOURSELF. RESOLUTION SHOULD ALSO REQUEST UNSYG TO FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY AND SUBMIT PERIODIC REPORTS ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN EFFORTS TO REACH PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

5. IT WAS AFTER COMPLETING OUTLINE OF SCENARIO THAT FAHMY STRESSED THIS WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW OF HOW IT SHOULD GO. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH SADAT BEFORE I COULD PASS THIS ON TO YOU AS GOE POSITION. HE THEN ASKED THAT I WAIT WHILE HE WENT TO NEARBY MAMMOURA PALACE TO DISCUSS IT WITH PRESIDENT.

6. FAHMY RETURNED AFTER ABOUT 45 MINUTES TO SAY THAT SCENARIO WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN AS HIS PERSONAL VIEW AT THIS STAGE, BECAUSE SADAT COULD NOT MAKE UP HIS MIND UNTIL AMBASSADOR RETURNS WITH COMPREHENSIVE REPORT WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE FULL DETAILS ON YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS AND ON WHERE SITUATION CURRENTLY STANDS. FAHMY SAID SADAT FELT THAT US WAS KEEPING HIM IN THE DARK WHILE, ON OTHER SECRET

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HAND, RABIN WENT BACK TO ISRAEL WITH FULL DETAILS ABD IN RELAXED MOOD, MAKING STATEMENTS ABOUT NOT COMING TO ANY FINAL DECISION FOR 3 OR 6 MONTHS.

7. FAHMY REPEATED THAT SADAT SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE UP HIS MIND ON WHETHER TO GO FOR INTERIM SETTLEMENT OR CALL FOR CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. HIS DECISIONS WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT AMBASSADOR SAYS. HE THEREFORE WANTS TO HAVE PICTURE IN FULL DETAIL SO THAT HE CAN MAKE HIS OWN MAJOR DECISIONS.

8. SADAT ALSO WANTED TO ASK PRESIDENT FORD AND YOU WHY US HAS NOT SUBMITTED AMERICAN MAP TO BOTH SIDES AS HE HAD ASKED. HE THINKS THIS IS THE PROPER TIME TO DO SO. FAHMY ALSO SAID SADAT WANTS

TO KNOW HOW MANY DAYS IT WILL TAKE TO BRING THESE MATTERS TO A HEAD AND WHEN YOU WOULD PLAN TO COME TO EGYPT. I TOLD HIM I WAS SURE YOU WISHED YOU KNEW.

9. FAHMY CONCLUDED BY SAYING SADAT WANTED TO INFORM YOU THAT "THERE SHOULD BE NO NERVOUSNESS ABOUT SITUATION." EGYPT WOULD DO THE PROPER THING AT THE PROPER TIME. FAHMY ADDED THAT SC COULD MEET EVEN LATER THAN JULY 24 TO DELIBERATE ON MANDATE QUESTION AS LONG AS EGYPT DOES NOT ASK FOR TERMINATION OF UNEF PRESENCE. THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SC TO GET HEAVILY INVOLVED IMMEDIATELY.

10. I INFORMED FAHMY AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN ON TWA FLIGHT SATURDAY EVENING, PROBABLY ARRIVING IN CAIRO ABOUT 1900 HOURS LOCAL IF PLANE WAS ON TIME. HE NOTED THAT KING KHALID WAS HOSTING DINNER FOR SADAT IN CAIRO THAT EVENING, SO THAT AMBASSADOR COULD PROBABLY NOT MEET WITH PRESIDENT HIMSELF UNTIL LATE SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 20, AFTER KHALID'S DEPARTURE.
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